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# CIA Director: Study of Soviet Strength, Buildup Is a Must

ANAHEIM — CIA director Stan-  
sfield Turner says that if there is  
some sort of national consensus on  
influence of events in foreign  
countries, the agency has that  
capability and should keep it.

But the top priority of the U.S. in-  
telligence community has been and  
must continue to be the strategy and  
buildup in Soviet military strength.

Turner, appointed director of the  
CIA in 1977 by President Carter,  
spoke to some 200 persons at the  
Disneyland Hotel yesterday in an  
appearance sponsored by the Orange

County Forum of Town Hall of  
California.

His theme was the new direction  
of the CIA and the intelligence com-  
munity, expansion into information  
gathering on foreign politics and  
economy as well as opening up some  
of the agency's activities the public.

But this opening up process, caus-  
ed in part by abuses alleged in con-  
nection with the war in Vietnam and  
Watergate, can and has been carried  
too far, he said.

Disclosures by former agents of  
information collecting methods

heretofore kept secret have been  
"seriously damaging to our  
country" by reducing the confidence  
of cooperative agencies overseas  
that the United States has adequate  
controls to protect them.

"Their question is can they afford  
working with us?" the former U.S.  
Navy admiral said. He questioned  
how, two of the former agents,  
Philip Agee and John Stockwell,  
could get support for their activities  
(Stockwell's youth festival in Miami  
and Agee's newsletter) criticizing  
the agency.